



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

February 28, 2013

Mr. Patrick Walsh, Co-Chair
Mr. Danila Sheveiko, Co-Chair
Water Quality Advisory Group
255 Rockville Pike, Suite 120
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Walsh and Mr. Sheveiko:

Thank you for your letter regarding the designation of Tier II Watersheds in Montgomery County. I appreciate and share your desire to protect the County's high quality streams. In fact, the County is committed to protecting all of its stream resources from degradation, not only those designated by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) as Tier II.

The County comprehensively monitors the biological and physical characteristics of county stream resources, focusing on one-fifth of the county's watersheds per year. All data collected during the watershed assessment monitoring is submitted to MDE for their review. It should be noted that MDE is required under the Clean Water Act to prepare triennial Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Reports, which includes the 303(d) impaired streams listing, streams with TMDLs, and 305(b) water assessment and designated use determination.

I have asked the Department of Environmental Protection to draft a letter requesting that MDE use all readily available County data in the next 305(b) water quality assessment and designated use determination. Montgomery County has worked with MDE before in the review of Tier II designations and looks forward to continuing this working relationship. In addition, the County is currently conducting analyses to better characterize fragile and sensitive streams for the Clarksburg Limited Master Plan Amendment. Once our evaluation is complete, we will also include suggestions for Tier II streams in Montgomery County in our letter to MDE. We anticipate that the stream evaluations will be complete within two to three months.

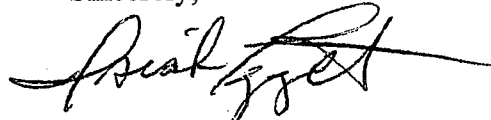
According to MDE, waters designated as Tier II may require additional regulatory protections such as environmental site design, stream buffers, special permit conditions, pre/post project monitoring, and/or other appropriate measures to make sure biological integrity is maintained. Montgomery County has independently and proactively implemented all of these measures in the planning, zoning, and subdivision review process, and through stormwater management planning and implementation.

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All of the county land zoned for development and available for new development is subject to the protective measures listed above. The remainder that is undeveloped, almost one-third of the county, is otherwise protected through agricultural reserve zoning and easements. To meet long term water quality goals, and to meet the stringent provisions of the County's current MS4 permit, we are focusing resources on restoring our many urban and suburban streams, which are suffering from past development without adequate environmental protection.

Thank you again for your suggestion. I appreciate your support and insight into county water quality concerns. For additional information, contact Pam Parker at 240-777-7758 or Pamela.Parker@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isiah Leggett', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

cc: Bob Hoyt, Director, Department of Environmental Protection
Pam Parker, Department of Environmental Protection